

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
H-405 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
H-405 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Calvert:

We are writing to respectfully request inclusion of \$35 million for the peer-reviewed orthopaedic research program (PRORP) in the FY 2021 Defense Appropriations legislation. Peer-reviewed orthopaedic research has been funded through PRORP since FY 2009 and before that the Orthopaedic Extremity Trauma Research Program (OETRP) from FY 2006 – FY 2009.

PRORP is one of the most successful Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRPs) housed under the Department of Defense (DOD). It is a competitive grant program that funds focused basic and clinical research pertaining to extremity war injuries through direct grants to research institutions. More than 15,000 patients have been enrolled in studies funded by this program to date. Results will lead to major improvements in surgeons' abilities to care for these devastating injuries.

The program received an initial \$114 million investment in FY 2009, with funding stable at \$30 million since FY 2012. The initial higher investment levels allowed for development of a consortium of centers engaged in this research and a methods center to ensure that rigorous scientific design and study principles have been employed throughout. We are requesting an increase to \$35 million in order to maintain stable funding for the consortium infrastructure and to ensure that studies have the greatest chance of achieving success.

Over half of all combat injuries sustained during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) involved extremity injuries and orthopaedic-specific conditions secondary to battle injury. In addition, extremity injuries accounted for the greatest proportion of medical resource utilization and causes the greatest number of disabled military personnel, accounting for 65% of total inpatient resource spending and 64% of projected disability costs.

We are hopeful that the Subcommittee will provide \$35 million in the FY 2021 Defense Appropriations legislation to ensure this important work can continue to assist those who have made tremendous sacrifices while defending the United States of America.

Sincerely,



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress

DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress

DEBORAH DINGELL
Member of Congress

JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress

ROGER MARSHALL, M.D.
Member of Congress

ANN KUSTER
Member of Congress



JOE WILSON
Member of Congress



PAUL COOK
Member of Congress

ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

WILLIAM TIMMONS
Member of Congress

CHRIS PAPPAS
Member of Congress

TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress

JIM HAGEDORN
Member of Congress

DANIEL MEUSER
Member of Congress

GLENN THOMPSON
Member of Congress

TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress

ERIC SWALWELL
Member of Congress

JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress

KENDRA S. HORN
Member of Congress

GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR.
Member of Congress

MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress

JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA
Member of Congress

GUY RESCHENTHALER
Member of Congress

DENVER RIGGLEMAN
Member of Congress

AYANNA PRESSLEY
Member of Congress

GEORGE HOLDING
Member of Congress

BRENDAN BOYLE
Member of Congress

DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress

SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress

JENNIFER WEXTON
Member of Congress

MIKE GALLAGHER
Member of Congress

JOSEPH MORELLE
Member of Congress

ANTHONY BROWN
Member of Congress

JOHN JOYCE
Member of Congress

JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress

JOSEPH NEGUSE
Member of Congress

SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress

TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress

DENNIS HECK
Member of Congress

ANDREW KIM
Member of Congress

ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress

ELISSA SLOTKIN
Member of Congress

MATT GAETZ
Member of Congress

TED S. YOHO, D.V.M.
Member of Congress

STEPHEN LYNCH
Member of Congress

RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress

BILL POSEY
Member of Congress

DANNY DAVIS
Member of Congress

BRIAN MAST
Member of Congress

BOBBY RUSH
Member of Congress

C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress

STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

HENRY JOHNSON
Member of Congress

JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress

LLODY DOGETT
Member of Congress

GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress

AL GREEN
Member of Congress

MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress

WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress

ALCEE HASTINGS
Member of Congress

JANICE SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

DOUG LAMBORN
Member of Congress

WILLIAM PASCRELL
Member of Congress

GREGORIO SABLAN
Member of Congress

BRAD WENSTRUP, D.P.M.
Member of Congress

JUDY CHU
Member of Congress

EARL CARTER
Member of Congress